



President's Corner

—By Robert KA5WSS

At our November meeting elections were held and all existing [club officers](#) retained their posts for 2023. I want to thank the other officers for their efforts in 2022 and for continuing to serve the interests of our membership going forward.

Another decision made in November was what to do about December. Traditionally, our December meeting was replaced with a Christmas dinner at a local restaurant. That had been put on hold due to the COVID pandemic in 2020. The attending members expressed some lingering concerns about a larger gathering even now. So we've opted to host a regular meeting this month. The meeting topic will be a presentation on Go-Kit Building Design by Vince (VE6LK/AI7LK). We'll see what 2023 has in store for us.

Instead of a larger Christmas Party a few members are looking at taking baby steps and resurrecting the club's monthly breakfasts at Black Bear Diner. The first took place on Saturday, December 5th with about six people showing up. You can join the group on future dates which will occur on the first Saturday of the month at 8:30 AM. Check out the [club's event calendar](#) for more info.

This year is coming to a close and 2023 is right around the corner. That means it's time to renew your VOMARC membership! You can easily renew by visiting our [join us](#) page, type in your name and callsign (if any) and press "Pay Now". Let us know if you have any issues. Membership remains a reasonable \$15 per year.

I hope we see you all online for our meeting in December. Whether you are able to make it or not I wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season!

NEXT MEETING

Wed, December 21, 2022, 7:30pm
Zoom meeting room info will be emailed later.

Topic: **Go-Kit Building Design**
Presenter: **Vince (VE6LK/AI7LK)**

Minutes of the November 16 Meeting

PRESENT: KA5WSS (Robert), KD6FIL (Dave), WD6BOR (Darrel), KM6URP (Kathy), N6LY (Elizabeth), K6YD (Kevin), KB6CLV (Simon), W1EJ (Ed), W8EWL (John), N7TSQ (Joe), WB6TMH (Mike), N7PIB (Sanford), KH6GJV (Bill)

BUSINESS AND OFFICER REPORTS

Adopt meeting minutes as published in the newsletter? Kevin was at the meeting.

OFFICER REPORTS

NEWSLETTER EDITOR - Eileen, KG6QNT-absent

ACS LEAD - Moe, KI6JNU - Absent

VE LIAISON - Elizabeth, N6LY

Last test of the year in Oct.

2023 Schedule Probably Jan, Hamfest, July and October

RADIO OFFICER - Mike, WB6TMH

Weekly Net Control

This month - Mike WB6TMH

Next month - Darrel WD6BOR

Need new net control ops for September and October

TRUSTEE - Darrel, WD6BOR – No items

SECRETARY/TREASURER - Dave, KD6FIL

\$3074.67 in bank

VICE PRESIDENT - Ed, W1EJ

Proposes 1st Sat of Month breakfast at Black bear Diner-8:30 AM. Robert will update the calendar. Put reminder in next newsletter.

PRESIDENT - Robert, KA5WSS

2023 Officer elections. Current candidates:

President - KA5WSS

VP - W1EJ

Sec/Treas - KD6FIL

Radio Officer - WB6TMH

VE Liaison - N6LY

Newsletter Editor - KG6QNT

Candidates reelected with W1EJ voting no.

CHRISTMAS DINNER OR ZOOM MEETING IN DECEMBER?

A bit late to schedule? Skip party this year and start with “Christmas Breakfast” on the 3rd.

Elizabeth suggests a donation from the club for the holidays to the Food Bank. Approved by vote. The club will donate \$200 to FISH of Sonoma. Dave will cut a check.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next month’s meeting topic: TBD-Gary-RFI in the Shack will be rescheduled

Mystery Box drawing - postponed until in-person meetings are possible and we can be sure COVID-19 is not one of the contents. Ed now has the mystery box for now. Will restart with Breakfasts.

MEETING TOPIC - The Magic of Six Meters

—Submitted by Dave KD6FIL

VE Liaison News

—By Elizabeth N6LY

Happy Holidays.

I am happy to announce our testing sessions for 2023.

Our first session of the year will be on Saturday, January 28.

Sponsor: Valley of the Moon ARC

Time: 10:00 AM and 12:30 PM if there is enough demand

(Reservations required)

Contact: Elizabeth Morris-Mowrey (N6LY)

Email: n6ly.emm (at) [gmail.com](mailto:n6ly.emm@gmail.com)

Location: Sonoma Police Station EOC room
175 1st Street West, Sonoma

Please reserve in advance if you want to join the hobby or move on to the next level.

We will still be requiring masks and will seat candidates appropriately spaced.

This is a testing session only, we don't offer classes or cram sessions.

If you are testing for a new license, you will be required to pay a \$35 fee to the FCC, in addition to the fee below, once you pass the test to receive your license and call sign. This does not apply to upgrades.

Candidate Requirements:

- A photo identification or (2) non-photo ID's
- [FCC Registration Number](#)
- Original and a photocopy of your current license (if licensed)
- Any original valid CSCE's and a photocopy of each
- Radiotelegraph license, if held (see VE)
- Exam fee is \$15.00, Under 18 is \$5.00

COVID-19 Requirements

To ensure the health and safety of all applicants and examiners, for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic the following requirements also apply. There will be no exceptions to these requirements.

- All candidates must reserve a spot ahead of time via email. See contact info above.
- Sessions limited to six applicants at a time.
- All participants must wear a mask (covering both the mouth and nose).
- Please bring your own pens and pencils.
- Chairs and desks will be sanitized before each session.

Why Test With Us?

Every candidate who takes an FCC examination with VOMARC is entitled to a free year's worth of membership in the club, regardless of whether you pass or not! Each applicant is also provided with a welcome kit of some helpful information on how to get started on their Amateur Radio adventure.

Upcoming Sessions for 2023

- **Saturday, January 28**
- **Saturday, April 22 (in conjunction with our HAMFEST)**
- **Saturday, July 29**
- **Saturday, October 28**

Shack of the Month

We'll try and provide a glimpse in the stations of club members every month. I'll start off with my own station, KA5WSS.



The setup you see here is capable of making contacts from 160M through 70cm with the exception of 220 MHz. I have an end fed dipole for HF and 6M and a quarter wave vertical for 2M and 70cm. It's a very modest set of antennas, but good enough to work over 100 countries and make thousands of contacts. You don't need a big station to have fun.

The Kenwood TS-680S on the left is my old HF rig that I still use for 60M FT8. The lit up Yaesu FT-991A in the middle is my main rig and works on all of the bands mentioned above. The Kenwood TR-751A on the right is a 2M multimode that I use to check into our VOMARC nets.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

W6AJF LoTW Account

Here are the latest stats on the club's [Logbook of the World](#) account. We are just one state short of earning a [Worked All States](#) (WAS) award. We just need to work (and confirm!) Delaware during [Field Day](#) in 2023.

The numbers below are for the mixed mode versions of each award.

QSOs	QSLs	Confirm %
3,994	1,157	28.97%
Award	Confirmed	Needed
DXCC	16	100
WAS	49	50
WAZ	13	40
WPX	216	300

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

On The Air

During the [CQWW](#) CW contest Carl (N6TTV) made contacts with Portugal, Spain, Morocco, Madeira using just 10W and a battery at a portable location. Robert (KA5WSS) made 108 contacts from his home station, including several new CW DXCC countries.

During the [FT Roundup Contest](#) Robert (KA5WSS) made 293 QSOs using FT4 and FT8. Many of these were made while watching college football on Saturday afternoon in his recliner!

Sanford (N7PIB) has worked at least 2,907 parks as part of the [Parks on the Air](#) (POTA) program.

John (W8EWL) and Joe (N7TSQ) made several contacts during the [ARRL 10M Contest](#). Carl (N6TTV) worked 20+ countries while making 235 contacts. Robert (KA5WSS) made 168 contacts, about two thirds of those using CW. He also worked Carl (N6TTV). So far, several of those CW contacts have been confirmed for new states towards his CW [Worked All States Award](#). Funny enough, his first and last contact were both with K6XX on CW and Phone respectively.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

From The Archives

Our past President Jim (K6UUW - SK) had a bit of success with his home station. This certificate indicates he was the top high power single op entry from our ARRL section in the 2015 [ARRL DX Contest](#). He achieved the same result in 2011.



—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

Upcoming DXpeditions

From a recent Northern California DX Foundation letter...

2022 is expected to bring only one top ten most wanted DXpedition – FT5/W Crozet. Thierry, F6CUK, will start operation on December 20th. He will only be able to operate HF thru January 26, 2023. NCDXF provided funding for this operation.

For 2023, the most anticipated DXpedition is [3Y0J – Bouvet](#). NCDXF provided major funding. We reviewed their plans and are impressed. Since funding, the team's plans and preparation have accelerated. Their media posts and web pages provide much detail. Presently, the team plans to start operation in early January 2023. As always, more donations to the project are needed. Please visit their web page and follow the instructions to make a donation.

Also in 2023, the DXpedition to Sable Island, CYOC, will begin on March 20, 2023. NCDXF originally funded this operation in 2020.

-- Submitted by Dave (KD6FIL)

Morse Code Course Offered by John, WB6FRZ

The on-line code course in January is ON! Eleven students have signed up but I can accommodate more if you would care to join us. You will be learning a new language so the commitment is significant. I need students to agree to 45 minutes of daily study for twelve consecutive weeks, with one on-line meeting per week.

On-line meetings will be each Tuesday evening from 8:00 PM until 9:30 PM, from January 10 through April 4. It would also be good to meet in-person a couple of times; we can discuss this in the class. Supporting the course, I plan to offer weekly code practice over the SCRA 2m repeater, pending board of directors' permission.

Serious students only, contact me with questions or to sign up: wb6frz@arrl.net

-- Submitted by Andrew (KE6HID)

The Diamond X50 Antenna

The Diamond X50(N)C2 has the following frequency specifications (SWR 2:1 or less):

- VHF: 145-162 MHz
- UHF: 445-469 MHz

The difference between the antennas is that the X50NC2 has an N-Type connector and a difference of about \$20-30 in price. Choose the X50C2 instead for a SO-239 connector. They are the same antenna, all made by Diamond, with Powerwerx rebranding in online materials only. If you pay close attention to the packaging as

sent from Powerwerx you can see the make/model information printed there.

These antennas MAY be usable for Amateur Radio but, it's worth noting that some radios, particularly cheaper radios, will void the warranty with an SWR over 1.5:1.

Most of the people on the GMRS net are NOT licensed ham operators, are only using UHF, and may be better served by a GMRS-specific antenna.

DIAMOND X50NC2:

<https://www.hamradio.com/detail.cfm?pid=H0-014122>

<https://theantennafarm.com/shop-by-categories/shop-all/base-antennas/commercial-base-antennas/976-omni-directional-antennas/251-vhf-uhf-dual-band-base-antennas/7303-diamond-x50nc2-detail>

DIAMOND X50C2:

<https://www.hamradio.com/detail.cfm?pid=H0-006888>

<https://theantennafarm.com/shop-by-categories/shop-all/base-antennas/commercial-base-antennas/976-omni-directional-antennas/251-vhf-uhf-dual-band-base-antennas/7302-diamond-x50c2-detail>

<https://www.dxengineering.com/parts/dmn-x50c2>

<https://www.gigaparts.com/diamond-x50c2-dualband-base-repeater-antenna.html>

Note: Ordering these from HRO requires a significant wait as it is a special order. Other retailers that stock these antennas are faster to receive, but cost more. I ordered mine from HRO and waited months to receive it.

POWERWERX ANTCOM:

<https://powerwerx.com/base-station-wide-dual-band-antenna>

-- Submitted by Andrew (KE6HID)

Misc

- [VOMARC's YouTube account](#) now has an easier to remember handle: @ValleyOfTheMoonARC. The channel contains several videos concerning the history of VOMARC.
- **Stan (NJ6E)** has a WSPR beacon up and running. You can see where his station is being heard around the world by typing his callsign into the [WSPRNet map page](#).
- **The Sonoma County Radio Amateurs** (SCRA) will host an online CW course for beginners starting in January. Contact [John Breckenridge \(WB6FRZ\)](#) for more information or to sign up.
- [Montana PBS produced a documentary about Amateur Radio](#) that is now available online.
- A pilot in an SR-71 Blackbird spy plane [told the North Koreans to "F@%\\$" off in morse code in 1981](#).
- **Did you know** the United States has avoided assigning three letter airport codes starting with the letter Q to [avoid confusion with Morse Code Q codes](#).

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

Summit Adventure

Again we went to southern California for a visit but we stayed in a new place that turned out to be a great radio site. The house was almost on the top of an 1800 ft hill overlooking the valley and had unobstructed views (take off angles) for 270 degrees. The horizon appeared to be 40 miles or so away. The owner gave me permission to set up my antennas. First up was my 41 ft wire vertical supported by my new 10 meter HD Spiderbeam fiberglass mast which was lashed to

a post off the patio. On Sunday afternoon during the CQ WW DX CW event using the KX3 running 10 watts I was able to work CN3A Morocco, EA8RM Canary Islands, EA2W Spain on 15 meters, and CR3W Portugal on 10 meters. These were the best dx contacts in what I consider to be the most difficult direction from California. I ended up with 39 dx contacts in 26 zones and 22 countries.

Later I threw an 83 ft wire over a tree in an inverted U formation to use at night and when it was too cold out on the patio. Both antennas are non resonant lengths fed with QRP guys mini 9:1 unun and the ATU in the radio. During the week I was able to continue my normal schedule of CWT's and sprints.

Now I see why Ed, W1EJ, and other SOTA activators like the heights, the propagation is great up there.

-- Submitted by Carl (N6TTV)

Ham Humor

Have a Ham or electronics related joke or meme to share? Let us know!



Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

PARKS ON THE AIR FUN

2nd Annual Alcatraz Island Activation

On December 2nd, Kevin (K6YD) and I made our second trip to Alcatraz Island for a Parks on the Air Activation.

We weren't sure we were going to make it this year, as our permits weren't finalized until November 30th.

There was a slight rule change, so we had to



make some last minute changes. Last year, we were able to use a cart to bring all our equipment up to the parade grounds. This year we were told no cart, please

downsize. Well, we thought we had brought the minimal amount of equipment and gear, last year, so that was a challenge. We decided to bring our new ATAS antenna, as it doesn't require a tuner. Usually when using Hamsticks, as we did last year, we bring a tuner.

Another plus side of using the ATAS is that we had access to more bands, last year we only transmitted on 40M and 20M.

We were able to pack all the radio, battery, radials, connectors, and extension kit, into an Apache case. A little heavy, but all contained. Then we packed our two chairs, Tripod Mast, and Antenna, into a heavy duty, Military style backpack duffel.

Despite all the recent rain, December 2 turned out to be a nice sunny day. It was a little chilly when we arrived, on the first boat of the day, at 8:30, but there wasn't a lot of wind, so it wasn't too bad.

We managed to get all our gear up to the parade grounds and get set up by around 9:15. We started on 40M and the pileups started right away.

It started getting windy and colder around 2:00 and we talked about packing up, however the calls kept coming in, so we finally stopped around 2:50, and made it back to the dock, in time to catch the second to last boat.

We ended up transmitting on 3 bands, 40M, 20M, and 17M.

Total QSOs this year was 411, with contacts in 46 states and several Canadian Provinces. The biggest surprise was getting Hawaii on 40M, first thing in the morning. Sanford-N7PIB made it in our log.

We hope to go again next year. If we are able to make another trip out, I should be able to get my KILO for Alcatraz Island.



I haven't added any new parks this month. However, I am very close to getting a KILO activation at Point Reyes Natl Seashore and Golden Gate Rea creation Area.

Hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday season.

—Submitted by Elizabeth- N6LY

2022 Field Day Results

The [ARRL](#) published the 2022 [Field Day](#) results in the December issue of QST. Our total club score, consisting of 4 separate logs, came out to 2,496 points. Thanks to all members who operated at the W6AJF site and to those club members who operated from their home stations adding to our combined score (N6LY, K6YD, N7PIB).

VOMARC did fairly well compared to some of our local peers. [Sonoma County Radio Amateurs](#) submitted one log for a score of 1,690. However, [Benicia ARC](#) beat us out with 4 logs totaling 2,763. With a little more effort and help we can win back the North Bay in 2023!

Here are some photos provided by Darrel (WD6BOR) taken during the event.



Carl (N6TTV) working stations on CW.



Dave (KD6FIL) logging new phone QSOs.



Robert (KA5WSS) working stations while Frank (KG6N) and John (W8EWL) look on to get the military surplus tube tower erected.



The club's new mobile tower in the foreground got its first intensive use at Field Day.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

—Photos by Darrel WD6BOR

YOU SNOOZE YOU WIN?

By Ed W1EJ

A month ago I went to DICK'S sporting goods in Petaluma to shop for a birthday gift for my brother. While checking out Navy watch caps and warm gloves (he lives in Michigan) something caught my eyes. I know the saying is "caught my eye" but I have two. Anyway, I spotted a Blackstone 36" Griddle cooking station for \$279.99, a savings of \$120. Those of you that have been to our last two Hamfests would have seen me using an identical one to make the pancakes. That one was kindly lent to the club by Kathy (KM6URP).

Well, I thought, it would be great for the club to have their very own griddle unit for the pancake breakfast and maybe other club functions like field day. The sale price was good until December 2nd, which was about two weeks away. So, I floated the idea on one of the club nets and several members thought it would be a good idea and I said I would bring it up at our next club Zoom meeting. I said at the time that I would buy it and if the club declined I would either keep it or return it.

Fast forward two weeks to Dec 2nd and I had put off going back to buy the griddle. I went back to Dick's and what do you know they were all gone. It was a limited item, so no rain checks allowed but of course they had the much more expensive model. I said "Oh well you snooze you lose"; but the kind gentleman helping me said they may have one in another store. A few clicks later he told me

that the closest one, the last one in Northern California, was in Fairfield! I called the Fairfield store to make sure they had one., they did. I asked if they could transfer it to Petaluma and they said no; but they would hold it for me. Since it was my procrastinating that created the dilemma, I decided to make the trip.

I had no problem finding the store thanks to Google maps. The first two salespeople I talked to had no clue as to where the item was or if they even had one. I told them I had spoken to Casey and he said he would hold it. They found Casey and he pulled it out from hiding and started to ring it up. After a few attempts he was shaking his head and getting frustrated, so I asked him what was wrong. He said he could not get the system to take the additional ten percent discount for the damaged box. He finally figured it out, so the final price was \$251.99 plus tax.

Well, that is the snooze you win story. At next weeks meeting I will propose that it be purchased by the club. So "Zoom" in and let your vote count I think it will be a great item to have in our equipment inventory.



QSL Card Inbox



This QSL card from 7P8RU in Lesotho confirms QSOs on both 12M and 30M using FT8. It's an All Time New One (ATNO) for me for DXCC.

THE VOMARC WIRELESS

VOLUME 26 EDITION 12

A PUBLICATION OF VOMARC, THE VALLEY OF THE MOON
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF

Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Robert Barron KA5WSS – President

Ed Jacobson, W1EJ – Vice President

Dave Dammuller, KD6FIL – Secretary/Treasurer

Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer

Moe Llanes, KI6JNU – ACS Unit Leader

Elizabeth Morris-Mowrey, N6LY – VE Liaison

Darrel Jones, WD6BOR – Station Trustee for W6AJF

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Editor

Robert Barron, KA5WSS – Webmeister

*“Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after
benefits of membership in VOMARC.”—S. Marler*

WEB PAGE: <http://www.vomarc.org/>

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local,
except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL
88.5 Hz.

Breakfast Nets are held every Tuesday and Saturday morning
at 7:30 AM on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

Eileen@vom.com

—OR—

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.

C/O Sonoma Police Department

175 First Street West

Sonoma, CA 95476

ACS

NET CONTROL ASSIGNMENTS

	Name	Call
JANUARY	MOE	KI6JNU
FEBRUARY	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
MARCH	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
APRIL	JIM	K6UUW
MAY	DICK	KF6FZM
JUNE	MOE	KI6JNU
JULY		
AUGUST	BILL	KJ6EIG
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	FK6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

VOMARC

NET CONTROL ASSIGNMENTS

	Name	Call
JANUARY	ROBERT	KA5WSS
FEBRUARY	DARREL	WD6BOR
MARCH	MOE	KI6JNU
APRIL	DAVE	KD6FIL
MAY	ED	W1EJ
JUNE	FRANK	KG6N
JULY	ED	W1EJ
AUGUST	CARL	N6TTV
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP 2022

Membership Dues: \$15/year individual; \$5/year family member at same address.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at www.arrl.org.

QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Address: _____ APT: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

VOMARC Membership: Complimentary with Class—Date: _____

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen:

Dues may be mailed to VOMARC in care of the Sonoma Police Department, 175 1st St West, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting. Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC**.